

FFWPU USA: Bridgeport International Academy - Innovation is the future

Naokimi Ushiroda
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Photos courtesy of BIA

"When designing my product, I had the ultimate goal of it being used to serve others. Not only do I believe it's the moral thing to do, but it's also the most effective from a business standpoint," says A. Vianale. "Showing that you care for your customers is an increasingly important thing to do to make people appreciate and believe in what you are doing. I believe that's what drives people to God."

Vianale, a junior at Bridgeport International Academy ([BIA](#)), was among the students who recently explored their entrepreneurial side during the Connecticut school's "Global Studies Week." From March 13 through 17, students let their ingenuity take over with marketing projects for original products they designed.

"My team and I came up with the idea of creating a translation device," says Vianale. "We thought this industry would be good to make a new product for as it has a ton of untapped potential."



Vianale's team ultimately decided to create an earpiece that automatically translates audio. For as long as Vianale can remember, he's found great joy in exercising his creative muscle. "Back in my early youth, I had a blast making cities and tools out of cans and cardboard," he recalls. "The infinite possibilities that lie in front of me waiting to be actualized with my arts and crafts truly inspires me. It's the idea of making something novel and unique - Taking two or more things, mixing them up, and making something new out of it is my favorite way to create something."



Fellow junior M. Fayad-Costa and her team also set out to create something widely beneficial, inventing a waterproof, wireless bone conduction translation and language learning device with motion and thermal sensors. "It was made with the intention of inspiring independence and self-sufficiency," she says. "Originally, I wanted to make a telepathic communicator, and my teammates wanted to make a communication device that would not make our customers dependent on our device and help them grow as individuals. In the end, we decided on a non-telepathic translation device that would also teach spoken and unspoken languages."



Other students, like senior D. Sohn, decided to pursue the route of information technology. His team

created a fitness app called Huyoi, designed to accurately scan the nutrition value and calories of food by taking a photo. "I came up with this idea because of the many diseases being diagnosed in young adults today," he says. "Health is a huge problem, which is only getting worse, and I thought an app like this one would be able to help young adults be at their best performance and at their healthiest every day." The Huyoi app produces graphs to show nutrient intake, as well as the amount that should be consumed daily for different body types and body weight goals.



While BIA's student inventions ran the gamut, many drew inspiration from their peers and our ever-evolving society, as well as their faith - with God as the supreme Creator. "Seeing crazy creations put to work, and the wonders they help achieve, inspires me to create things I can be proud of," says Sohn. "I wanted to create something that could help people become better versions of themselves, where they can be healthy and strong."

"Religion often says God made the world in His own image," he continues. "I guess, similarly to this, I made a health app because I want to become a healthier person myself ... and I thought of something I would want, something that would help me and [other people]."

The students believe innovation is the way of the future, and an entrepreneurial mindset is an important skill for young people to hone early on in their education to successfully launch new startups. "I think it is a magnificent way to relate to people," says Fayad-Costa. "The world is changing and more young people are inventing new business concepts and ideas. Because of this, learning the basics of entrepreneurship at an early age is a must so that people with these new ideas can take full advantage of it and make something of themselves."

"I feel like people, especially those in the newer generations, possess boundless creativity," adds Vianale. "It makes sense to tap into the interests of young people and teach them ways they can use their gifts to give back to the world."

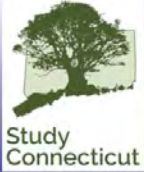
BIA's Global Studies Week gives students the opportunity to get out of the classroom and fully immerse themselves in developing projects to benefit the world in different ways.

You can learn more about BIA [here](#), and Global Studies Week [here](#).



WHY BIA?

Dual Enrollment



Where Students Meet the World!

Our holistic approach to education helps students develop the ability to use knowledge responsibly, choose and incorporate information most essential to their life goals, distinguish between useful or harmful exposures, and understand universally-recognized values. The multinational composition of the school community provides students with the opportunity to gain cultural competence and a broad understanding of the world in which they live.

[Learn More](#)



[Go To Virtual Open House](#)

Fast Facts



6:1

Student/Teacher Ratio



44

Countries Represented



47,000+

Service Hours Logged



97%

Move to Higher Education

Facebook Page

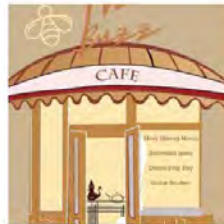


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Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 13	
Thursday, April 13	
Spring Break	
Friday, April 14	
Spring Break	
Saturday, April 15	
Spring Break	
Sunday, April 16	
Spring Break	
Monday, April 17	
Classes resume.	
Thursday, April 20	
7:00pm	BIA Open House
Friday, April 28	
Half day	
7:00pm	Drama

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York

Who We Are



**Mr. Gukwon An
(Faculty)**

"Each student can find, with his/her education, a role: to be purposeful by challenging academic interests, to be supported by seeking help from the faculty or diverse student body, and/or to be compassionate by serving others through



**Jaylin Padilla
(Student)**

"This school has really helped me change as a person on a positive level, and it has really shown me how fun learning can be. Being in this school for two years now has also shown me the responsibilities I have as a student and how to keep



**Jeanne Bessell
(Parent)**

"I can not think of any better school where I would want my kids to be. Great environment, great teachers, great kids. I love BIA!"



**Keita Yamada
(Alumni)**

"BIA is a very open and accepting family. It has vastly improved my capabilities to socialize, and learn new discoveries with peers from around the world."

his/her academic strengths."


up with


ABOUT

Bridgeport International Academy,
where students meet the world!

BIA is a learning community where students grow in heart and mind as they gain an excellent academic foundation for their college careers. [more](#)

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*"We are different; we are always have been and always will be.
However, different shouldn't divide us, but unify us
because different is an asset."
- Elizabeth Margo -*



Global Studies Week is..

Our Global Studies Week is an opportunity for students to get out of the classroom and learn in different ways of full immersion into different projects. Students come together ranging from 9th grade to 12th grade with different backgrounds and unite on a specific project.



Projects for the Better World

They deal with different themes each year, for example, creating a new country in each continent.

This project-based learning week helps them to understand each other and develop their global citizenship attitude as well as creativity.



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